

SIAC, Special Education Subcommittee meeting
Tuesday, September 24th, 2013
10:00am-2:00pm
INCCRRA, 1226 Towanda Plaza, Bloomington, IL 61701
Training Room 1
Conference number 888-494-4032
Participant code 719 851 8485#
Minutes

In person: Karen Berman (Interim Chair), Emily Dorsey, Angelica Flores (Staffer), Evelyn Green, Bernadette Laumann, Jeanette McCollum (Consultant), Gail Nelson, Donna Nylander, Pam Reising Rechner, Kathy Slattery, Amy Tarr

On the phone: Michele Carmichael, Chelsea Guillen, Madelyn James, Granada Williams, Amy Zimmerman

Introduction:

Attendance was taken and minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

I. Overview of Framework

A. Reminder of charge:

The immediate purpose of this subcommittee is to develop the standards and forms of evidence for the Governor's Award of Excellence for the Inclusion of Children with Special Needs.

Jeanette's Appendix B is only guidance and offers potential forms of evidence for Levels 1-4. The standards for Levels 1-4 have already been adopted and are not subject to change at this time.

B. Overview of agenda for today and next time

C. "Parking Lot"

- What would need to be done to make this work
 - After developing the forms of evidence, this subcommittee will need to consider the resources that are necessary to achieve the QRIS recommendations.

D. "Big Picture" introduction to the document

The standards and evidence document is in draft form and Jeanette would like the subcommittee's feedback. The forms of evidence were purposely drafted with the variety of programs in Illinois in mind. Jeanette would also like feedback on the glossary.

This subcommittee must consider how broad of a definition of "special needs" we should recommend and whether we should provide a definition of "disability."

E. Instruments referred to in document

II. Sections of framework in more detail

A. Brief introductions to definitions and Levels/Circles 1-4

B. Award of Excellence in Inclusion

1. The Standards

- Review format and content
 - The subcommittee reviewed the standards to make sure they are applicable to various programs, (i.e. Head Start, PFA, etc.) and the definitions in the glossary. Changes were made as necessary and will be reflected in an updated document. The group would also like to use Jeanette's abbreviated version of the standards when submitting this to the ELC for approval.
- Small group work: review from perspective of types of programs

2. Evidence for evaluating the Standards

- Review format and content
 - Send Jeanette any comments/feedback on the forms of evidence two weeks from today, which is **October 8, 2013**.
- Small group work: review from perspective of types of programs

3. Verification Process

- Description of 3-step process
 - The self-study would be completed by the program. The peer review would consist of volunteers who would only require reimbursement for mileage. Funding would be required for a state-approved assessor.
 - It was also suggested that maybe programs could apply for the Governor's Award of Excellence on a quarterly basis, which would provide programs with some guidance on when to apply.
- Discussion of alternatives and infrastructure needs

C. Back to Levels/Circles 1-4 and relation to the Award for Excellence

1. Issues in implementing
2. Discussion of other options
3. Where to from here for Levels/Circles 1-4

D. Back to Definitions

1. Discussion of wording
2. Additional definitions needed

Please see above. Jeanette will make changes to various definitions based on feedback.

III. Introduce overview of training

A. Required training for Levels/Circles 1-4

The training resource list includes the information from the workgroup that convened earlier this summer, but email Jeanette with any additional suggestions. Welcoming Each and Every Child will be included in the resource list.

Jeanette has also been working with Ted Burke to make the Early Intervention trainings available to non-Early Intervention providers. However, we do have to be mindful about Early Intervention's capacity to offer this to large numbers. Jeanette will also include the Illinois Early Intervention Clearinghouse and AOK Networks in the resource list. We will also look into opportunities where nurses are also available to train staff.

The subcommittee would like to include the advocacy toolkit created by Health & Disability Advocates on Early Intervention/Part C and Part B. The subcommittee recognizes that the Welcoming Each and Every Child training is already complete, but would like to include the toolkit as a supplemental until the next revision of the training.

In the future, this subcommittee may want to make recommendations around training model(s) that should be available for administrators.

This subcommittee would also like to explore how we can engage Innovation Zones (i.e. assess what kind of needs they have and what it would look like to provide support to these communities so they can move up the QRIS.)

B. Other available training - training matrix

IV. Charge for next meeting

A. Make recommendations on framework for the Award

B. Expand on training matrix and make recommendations for training

Please email Jeanette and Angelica with 1) any ideas for potential forms of evidence; and 2) additional ideas on trainings, including possible parent trainings. Feedback provided during this meeting and feedback sent to Jeanette and Angelica via email will be integrated and incorporated into an updated draft. This draft will be reviewed by the subcommittee at the next meeting.

Announcements: Angelica will send out an email about the Blending, Braiding and Sustainable Funding Round Tables. These Round Tables present an opportunity to learn more about multiple funding streams and quality improvement.

Handouts: Agenda, Minutes from 8.13.13, Short Version of standards, Standards and Evidence, Training Resource

Next meeting: Tuesday, October 29th in Bloomington. 10am-2pm.